

The LIBERTY LEGIONNAIRE

1st Quarter 2004

Community



P.O. Box 417
Liberty, MO 64068
roberthbakerpost95.com

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Get ready for the Post 95 Fourth annual Spaghetti Dinner. The menu includes all you can eat spaghetti with meat sauce; green beans; salad; French bread; drink and great desserts.

The event will be held on March 20th from 4:30 to 7:30PM in the Memorial Building at the corners of Hwys. H and B; just past William Jewell. Our Newsletter sponsors again have come up with some great door prizes. And we will have a raffle to benefit our youth fund. Raffle items are:

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for Veterans like:

\$25.00 Cracker Barrel Gift Certificate

The tickets are \$1 each or 8 for \$5 donation. Proceeds from the raffle and the dinner will go toward youth programs. The cost of the all -you-can-eat Dinner will be \$6 for those over 12 years and \$3 for the kids. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door. Come out and support your post!! Call Dale or Paul, or see any Post 95 Legionnaire for advance tickets or for Raffle tickets.

Post 95's Avenue of Flags

The Post will display your Avenue of Flags again this year on Memorial Weekend and for the Liberty City Fireworks. This is your Avenue of Flags, the Post is only the custodian of the Flag

display

Once again this year, you have the opportunity to dedicate a Flag, pole, and name tag, in honor of a loved one; living or deceased; Veteran or non-Veteran. The cost remains at \$22.00. We have enclosed an order form and hope that you will take advantage of this low price – It is cheaper and lasts longer than flowers. We only have about 40 left, but can re-order if the demand great. Get your request in early so we can have the tag engraved prior to Memorial Weekend. Call Dale at 415-0567 or Paul at 792-5785 for more information.

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A CHILD'S PICTURE

by Rev Donna L Warren

Even in the lower grades in elementary school, the really profound remarks are as likely to come from a student as from a teacher.

Such was exactly the case one rainy morning in a second grade art class. The teacher stood watching one of her students for the longest time and finally asked, "So tell me, Kimberly, what are you painting?" Kimberly Sue, almost as if she had expected the question, said quite simply, "It's a picture of heaven."

The teacher, who definitely should have known better, responded by announcing to her seven year old student who was about to become her teacher, "You can't paint a picture of heaven. No one knows what heaven is like."

With that Kimberly Sue picked up her little head, made sure that she had her teacher's attention and said, "Of course they don't know, that's why I am painting my picture."

In a sense the world is one big art class. Each of us paints our

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collection of pictures. Sometimes we copy what someone else has already painted. Sometimes we produce an original. Some of our pictures are on canvas and some are on paper. But most of them are painted with thoughts on the canvas of our minds, or with words on the spaces that can be used either to join or to separate painters from each other.

All in all the pictures we paint are attempts to know what we have not known before, to clarify those things about which we already know something, or to convey to someone else something that we ourselves have learned or are in the process of learning. Our very being is based upon a belief that some two thousand years ago, the Son of God joined our art class. And oh, did He paint!

He painted pictures that most people had never seen, or at most, had only dreamed about. He painted new angles on pictures that others had thought were finished. He painted with His miracles and some people who had eyes and hearts with which to see were amazed. But

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He also painted with words, words that He wove into stories and those who had ears and hearts to hear were even more amazed.

Food for Thought

Provide by Paul Ellison

"You will never leave where you are, until you decide where you would rather be."

Anonymous

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

"What our schools do may prove in the long run to be more decisive than any other factor in preserving the form of government we cherish."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

"Growth demands a temporary surrender of security."

Gail Sheehy

I am still very much of an American... a believer in miracles. – Henry Miller

More Food for Thought

"The most important lesson you can learn from winning is that you can." **Dave Weinbaum**

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Post Member writes book

Post 95 member Ray Merrell has written a book “My Three Years in the Marine Corps” covers Ray’s journey to Boot Camp and the 33 months he spent with the Marine Raiders, the 4th Marines, and the 6th Marine Divisions. His service included the invasion of Bougainville, Guam, Okinawa, and the occupation of Japan.

Ray recently, came to a meeting and told about his book. It’s a war/love story. Ray has donated a copy to the Post 95 Library and an additional copy as a door prize for the upcoming Spaghetti Dinner. Thank you Ray!

Ray’s book sells for \$10.00 or 12.50 if mailed.

Ray and wife, Helen, who had something to do with the love part of a war story, recently visited North Platte, Nebraska. They took part with other Veterans in the filming of a documentary on Canteen Workers. The “Canteen Spirit” is to be shown on PBS this August.

The volunteer Canteen workers shared their rationed food and fuel to serve over 6 million troops from December

25th, 1941 through April 1946 from as many as 23 trains a day from 5AM until midnight; every day. Ray says “It is an amazing story.”

We’ll watch for it this summer. Finally something good on PBS; I hate paying American dollars during those pledge drives to support English comedy and drama; but that’s just me.

Things That Took Me Over 50 Years To Lear Things That

by Dave Barry

provided by Paul Ellison
Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.

If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be "meetings."

Never lick a steak knife.
A person who is nice to you, but rude to the waiter, is not a nice person. (This is very important. Pay attention. It never fails.)

Your friends love you anyway.

Cut out & place on the frig!!

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Dinner!!**
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A Great Story

This is a wartime story of my brother in law, Kim Staats. He quit school at 17, the day after Pearl Harbor was attacked to join the Navy. On the way home from the recruiting office, he suddenly realized what he had done and that his mother would have to sign for him. Now he wasn't quite sure he wanted her to. But with four other lively boys at home, she gave him her blessing and off he went. After a stint on a PT Boat, he was assigned to the "WHALE" and spent the duration of the war in the Pacific, the Sea of Japan area. -Betty Shannon

Vernon sent this to Polaris Magazine for publication:

IN MEMORORY OF **JOACHIM STAATS**

(By Vern Miller)

I was deeply saddened to learn of Joachim Staats' death as reported in the October issue of the Polaris. Our friendship dates back to WWII when he and I were shipmates aboard the Whale.

I first met Joachim in early June of 1943, when the Whale tied up next to the sub-tender. Griffin, at Pearl Harbor after completing its fourth successful war patrol. Fireman Staats, 12

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others, and myself, a RM3/c, were transferred from the relief crew to the Whale at that time.

I soon learned that Joachim's nickname was "Kim" and that we both came from northeastern New York State. Kim's home, just south of Albany, is in the national registry as the 3rd oldest continuously inhabited house in the USA—it was built by his Dutch ancestors around 1630. Buried in the Staats' family cemetery, is another "Joachim Staats", who was a General during the Revolutionary War.

At the end of our first patrol, the Whale returned to Pearl Harbor for a major overhaul. In fact, Kim and I were among the first to welcome Betty Whale (also featured in the October issue) aboard when she was adopted as our mascot that summer.

By the end of the next patrol, the word around the Whale was that Kim, although the youngest, was as good as any Machinist Mate aboard the Whale. On May 1, 1944, he was promoted and informed that he would be taking over one of the engine rooms. He richly deserved the promotion, however, he held it only a few days due to a misadventure!

A few days later in May, we

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tied up along side the Bushnell at Majuro Atoll in the Marshall Islands.. Myrna, a small island in the Atoll, had been prepared for our crew R & R while the Whale was being refitted by the Bushnell. There were three other crews there which made for much athletic competition between the crews. Obviously, Myrna had its limitations but overall it was a good place to rest after a long patrol. After sixty years, I can recall only a couple of things about that refit in Majuro: One was the fact that most of the palm trees had been cut off leaving knee high stumps so that we would have seats for the evening movie. The other memory concerns the incident involving Kim Staats.

Kim had grown up on the banks of the Hudson River and was considered a good sailor. Kim frequently sailed across the river to spend time with the attractive Snyder sisters, who resided on the opposite bank. . He married Kay, the older of the two sisters, in January 1945, while the Whale was undergoing major overhaul at Mare Island.

Back to Majuro. We had been there only a couple of days when I heard that Kim was missing. The last time anyone had seen

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Kim he was paddling just off shore in a dugout canoe which he had apparently found somewhere on our little island. . He was still missing at dark so a rescue party was formed.

Majuro Atoll is horseshoe shaped and our island, Myrna, was located in the center. The semi-circle in either direction to the open sea was dotted with small islands which were separated by water during high tide. However, the search party found that later in the evening, during low tide, it was possible to safely wade from one island to another. It was in this manner that the party made it to the last island of the Atoll sometime later in the evening.. There they found Kim sound asleep under a coconut tree.

Many of us were still awake when Kim and the search party returned. He explained that the sail that he had made for the canoe had really given him a great ride but that he was unable to return to Myrna due to a shift in the wind and the outgoing tide. It was his intention to get some rest and return with the incoming tide. He could not understand why everyone was so concerned because he was confident that he would have easily made it back

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the following day.

Unfortunately, the fact that Kim was missing had apparently been reported to the Squadron Commander so the Captain of the Whale was under pressure to. set an example. All four crews had been cautioned to not leave the island. I think this was due to the fact that Majuro natives lived on some of the islands in the Atoll and we had assured them that they would not be disturbed by our presence on Myrna.. So, poor Kim was disciplined and ended up forfeiting the promotion he had just gotten a few days earlier.

However, when we commenced our next patrol, Kim was placed in charge of his engine room. It only made sense as he was the best diesel mechanic aboard the Whale. I always felt more secure when Kim was in the engine room, as did the rest of our crew. I suspect that he may have been the most junior rating to be in charge of a submarine engine room during WWII. Kim finished his seventh patrol on the Whale as the war ended.

Kim, may you sail from cloud to cloud with those of our shipmates who preceded you.

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His name was Donald R. Walters, from North Kansas City. He was KIA on March 23 2003. The Army is unsure as to the chain of events leading up to his This was the same convoy that Jessica Lynch was in. Donald left behind a wife, Stacie, and a two year old daughter

A living memorial will be planted in his honor on March 23rd, at 2:00 pm at Bauman Park on the Little Platte Arm of Smithville Lake. All are welcome to attend the service.

Members of Kit Bond's staff, and maybe, the Senator himself, will be in attendance Color Guards from various organizations are asked to display their Post Colors to honor this young man. Voiture 1379 of the 40et8, the Honor Society of the American Legion has donated the tree; several Post 95 members belong to this organization

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**Words of Wisdom
to Pass Along**

- The most destructive habit - Worry
- The greatest Joy - Giving
- The greatest loss -.Loss of self-respect
- The most satisfying work - .Helping others
- The ugliest personality trait - .Selfishness
- The most endangered species - Dedicated leaders
- Our greatest natural resource - Our youth
- The greatest "shot in the arm" - Encouragement
- The greatest problem to overcome -Fear
- The most effective sleeping pill - Peace of mind
- The most crippling failure disease - Excuses
- The most powerful force in life - Love
- The most dangerous pariah - A gossip
- The world's most incredible computer - The brain
- The worst thing to be without - Hope
- The deadliest weapon - The tongue
- The two most power-filled words - "I Can"
- The greatest asset - Faith

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- The most worthless emotion - Self-pity
- The most beautiful attire - SMILE!
- The most prized possession - Integrity
- The most powerful channel of communication - Prayer
- The most contagious spirit - Enthusiasm
- Everyone needs this list to live by...pass it along!!!

New Members

- Post 95 welcomes the following new members:
- Rick Strack
 - James Thomas
 - Tommy Meister
 - Gary Davis
 - Paul Brown
 - Lanny Stiles
 - James "Pete" Hall
 - Richard Brown
 - Scott Marckini
 - Maggie Jackson
 - Ted Nelson

We invite you all to be as active as you want to be. Together we can accomplish more than we can as individuals. Come help us with our projects and bring some new ideas to the Post!!

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One of my favorites!!

Anyone who knows me or has seen my belly, knows I eat way too much. I really don't like food, I just eat to be sociable. Anyway, here is one my bride of 32 years, Colleen, found and I really like it!

- Chili-Beef Stuffing Bake
- Prep: 15 minutes plus standing (don't see why you can't sit)
- Baking: 30 Minutes
- 1 pkg (6 oz.) cornbread stuffing mix
- 1 lb. Lean ground beef, cooked, drained (I like the ground turkey just as much.)
- 1 can (15 oz.) kidney beans, undained
- 1 can (8 oz.) tomato sauce
- 1 Tbsp. Chili powder
- Mix contents of stuffing mix pouch 1-1/2 cups hot water and ¼ cup margarine, cut-up, in large bowl just until moistened; set aside.
- Mix remaining ingredients in 12x8-inch baking dish. Top with stuffing.
- Bake at 375 F for 30 minutes or until thoroughly heated.
- Makes 4 to 6 servings (slightly less if you're feeding Dale!)

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"If you can't get people to listen any other way, tell them it's confidential." **Farmer's Digest HUMOR "Elderly Road Trip"**

While on a road trip, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. After finishing their meal, they left the restaurant and resumed their trip. When leaving the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table. She didn't miss them until after they had been driving about twenty minutes. By then they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turn around, to go back and retrieve the glasses.

On the way back, the husband became the classic grouchy old man. He fussed and complained and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive. The more he chided her, the more agitated he became. He just wouldn't let up for one minute. They finally arrived at the restaurant. As the woman got out of the car to retrieve her glasses, the man yelled at her, "While you're in there, you might as well get my hat, too!"

God Bless our Troops!!

Facts of Life

Provided by Bobbie Beeks

1. If you're too open-minded, your brains will fall out.
2. Don't worry about what people think; they don't do it very often.
3. Going to a church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
4. It isn't the jeans that make your butt look fat.
5. Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
6. My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.
7. Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.
8. It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.
9. For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program.
10. If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.
11. Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.
12. A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel good.

13. Eat well, stay fit, die anyway. (Just remember how lucky you were to get a free trip around the sun.)
14. Men are from earth. Women are from earth. Deal with it.
15. No man has ever been shot while doing the dishes.
16. A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.
17. Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.
18. Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.
19. Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.
20. There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.

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Subject: Over 35

Supplied by Bob Beeks

People over 35 should be dead. Here's why:

According to today's regulators and bureaucrats, those of us who were kids in the 40's, 50's, 60's, or even maybe the early 70's probably shouldn't have survived. Our baby cribs were covered with bright colored lead-based paint. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets, ... and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets. (Not to mention the risks we took hitchhiking.)

As children, we would ride in cars with no seatbelts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. Horrors!

We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, and drank soda pop with sugar in it, but we were never overweight because we were always outside playing.

four friends, from one bottle, and no one actually died from this. We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then rode down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes.

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After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem. We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the street lights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. NO CELL PHONES!!!!!! Unthinkable! We did not have Play stations, Nintendo 64, X-Boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, video tape movies, surround sound, personal cell phones, personal computers, or Internet chat rooms. We had friends! We went outside and found them.

We played dodge ball, and sometimes, the ball would really hurt. We fell out of trees, got cut and broke bones and teeth, and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. They were accidents. No one was to blame but us. Remember accidents?

We had fights and punched each other and got black and blue and learned to get over it.

We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and ate worms, and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes, nor did the worms live inside us forever.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's home and knocked on the

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door, or rang the bell or just walked in and talked to them.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Some students weren't as smart as others, so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. Horrors! Tests were not adjusted for any reason. Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law. Imagine that!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever. The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all. And you're one of them! Congratulations!

A smile is a curve that can set a lot of things straight.

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